

## PATENT



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May 24, 2004

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Bryan W. Shirk et al.  
 Serial No. : 09/817,672  
 Filing Date : March 26, 2001  
 For : BIODEGRADABLE VEHICLE COMPONENTS  
 Group Art Unit : 3611  
 Examiner : Lee S. Lum  
 Attorney Docket No. : TRW(VSSIM)4686-1

Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

1. Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98, and in compliance with CFR §1.56, the Office's attention is directed to the patents, pending applications, publications and other information listed on the attached PTO-1449. Copies of listed foreign patents and other listed publications are enclosed. No copies of the listed U.S. patents and U.S. patent applications are enclosed. Applicant(s) make no admission that the enclosed documents are prior art to the present invention.
2. Regarding each listed document that is not in the English language, an English-language translation accompanies this Statement as indicated on the attached PTO-1449 or a corresponding U.S. Patent is enclosed or a concise explanation of the relevance of the document is set forth on an attached sheet, or a copy of an English-language search report is attached.

3. Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97(b) this Statement is being filed (one must be checked):

(a)  Within 3 months of the filing date or date of entry into the National Stage.

(b)  Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.

(c)  After the period set forth in 37 CFR §1.97(b) but before the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

1)  A certification is given below,

2)  Enclosed is a check covering the fee (\$180.00) set forth in §1.17(p) for consideration of this Statement, or

3)  Charge the fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

(d)  After the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance, but before payment of the issue fee. The required certification and fee is indicated below.

1)  Enclosed is a check covering the fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) \$180, or

2)  Charge the fee set forth in 37 CFR §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

4. Certification (if applicable):

(a)  The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 3 months prior to the filing of this Statement.

(b)  The undersigned hereby certifies that no item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the undersigned's knowledge after making reasonable inquiry no item of information contained in the Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than 3 months prior to the filing of this Statement.

5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, fees underpaid, or credit any overpayment with regard to this Statement to Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

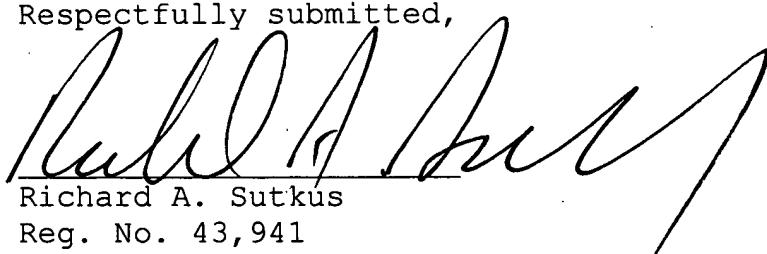
6. Concise Explanation (if needed):

(1)  Below is a Concise Statement of Relevance of enclosed non-English language document(s).

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

U.S. Patent No. 6,010,870

Respectfully submitted,

  
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MAY 24 2004

Sheet 1 of 1

FORM PTO-1849 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (REV. 6-89) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE							ATTY DOCKET NO.: TRW(VSSIM)4686-1	SERIAL NO. 10/419,446				
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT							APPLICANT: Bryan W. Shirk et al.					
(Use several sheets if necessary)							FILING DATE: March 26, 2001	GROUP: 3611				
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS												
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER						DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
	6	0	1	0	8	7	0	1/4/00	Pelzer et al.			
	DOCUMENT NUMBER						DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSLATION	
											YES	NO
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)												
EXAMINER							DATE CONSIDERED					
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the patent applicants' attorney.												